

A FACT SHEET FOR Food Recovery & Donation



The **Grease Goblin** is the mascot for DPPEA's Oil and Grease Management Program. He serves as a reminder to keep grease out of sinks and drains before it becomes a nuisance.

Approximately 10 million tons of food discards are disposed of annually in the United States. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that one-quarter of all food produced in the United States is wasted. Food service providers can reduce the amount of edible waste disposed by donating leftover fresh or prepackaged foods to rescue organizations. These agencies help feed the hungry with donations from restaurants, supermarkets, schools, prisons, hospitals, food processors, hotels and community events.



Benefits of Food Donation

- **Cost Benefits.** Donations to nonprofit organizations may be tax deductible. Food recovery and donation also helps to decrease waste collection and disposal fees. Decreasing the volume of garbage generated can result in fewer and smaller waste containers and landfill transfers.
- **Public Image.** Being identified as an environmentally and socially responsible organization can boost the donor's public image. This "green" practice of food donation could attract additional customers that are concerned with the increasing quantities of food that is wasted and improperly managed.
- **Environmental Protection.** Keeping excess food waste out of the solid waste stream can reduce the need for additional landfill space, decrease odors of decomposing food, reduce the generation of methane and decrease pollutants in landfill leachate. Food rescue also helps to reduce sanitary sewer overflows from blockages related to food solids that are disposed into municipal wastewater collection systems. Donation also can help the community meet its waste reduction goals.

Recipient Program

The donating agency should find out as much as possible about the group that will be receiving and distributing its food. It is also important to ensure that the donated items are stored, handled and served properly. Consider the following when choosing a recipient:

- Is the program affiliated with a national hunger organization?
- Are employees trained in proper food-safety and handling-techniques?
- Are the staff members that handle and pick up the food certified food handlers?
- Do other community restaurants/grocers/food companies donate to the program?
- Does the program restrict prepared-food donations to commercial vendors?
- Does the facility have adequate storage space, including refrigerators and freezers?
- Has the facility passed all local and state health and safety inspections?
- Does the program carry adequate liability insurance?

Donor Protection

The Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act passed in October 1996 offers uniform protection to citizens, businesses and nonprofit organizations that in good faith donate, recover and distribute excess food. The Good Samaritan Law states that a person or nonprofit organization shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability arising from the nature, age, packaging or condition of apparently wholesome food or an apparently fit grocery product that the donor provides in good faith to a nonprofit organization for the ultimate distribution to needy individuals. For additional information on how to set up a food donation program and local acceptance agencies visit the Food Donation Organizations link at www.secondharvest.org.




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North Carolina Food Donation Agencies


 **MANNA Food Bank**
627 Swannanoa River Road
Asheville, NC 28805
tel: 828-299-3663
fax: 828-299-3664
www.mannafoodbank.org


 **Second Harvest Food Bank
of Northwest North Carolina**
3655 Reed Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27107
tel: 336-784-5770
fax: 336-784-7369


 **Food Bank of North Carolina**
3808 Tarheel Drive
Raleigh, NC 27609
tel: 919-875-0707
fax: 919-875-0801
www.foodbanknc.citysearch.com

 **Food Bank of the Albemarle**
109 Tidewater Way
Elizabeth City, NC 27906
tel: 252-335-4035
fax: 252-335-4797
www.afoodbank.com

 **Community Food Rescue**
2401-C Distribution Street
Charlotte, NC 28203
tel: 704-342-3663
fax: 704-342-3471

 **Second Harvest Food Bank
of Metrolina**
500 B Spratt Street
Charlotte, NC 28206
tel: 704-376-1785
fax: 704-342-1601
www.secondharvestcharlotte.org

 **Second Harvest Food Bank
of Southeast North Carolina**
406 Deep Creek Road, PO Box 753
Fayetteville, NC 28302
tel: 910-485-8809
fax: 910-485-4394
ccap-inc.org/sharvest.shtml

 **Inter-Faith Food Shuttle**
216 Lord Anson Drive
Raleigh, NC 27610
tel: 919-250-0043
fax: 919-250-0416

